

Tidepool Vocabulary

Please use this vocabulary list to help introduce students to key concepts in the tidepools. Pick and choose the words and definitions that are most applicable to your students.

Marine Biologist: A scientist that studies marine life

Marine Life Refuge: A protected area of ecological concern that prohibits the removal of almost all marine plants and animals except with a special permit

Tides: The alternate rise and fall of the surface of large bodies of water. This is caused by a combination of factors but especially the gravity from the sun and the moon as well as centrifugal force and it's pulling of the water that exposes and covers the seashore.

High Tide: The high levels to which the tides rise each day.

Low Tide: The low levels that the tides fall to each day.

Rocky Intertidal Zone: The area of coastline that is covered and uncovered each day by the high and low tides. Tidepools are formed when water is trapped in depressions in the rocks during the low tide.

Organism: Any individual plant or animal

Species: A population of similar organisms that can interbreed

Habitat: The specific geographic region in which a species is found

Adaptations: Inherited characteristics of an organism that allows it to cope well in its particular habitat.

Vertebrate: An animal with a backbone

Invertebrate: An animal without a backbone

Predator: A living organism that hunts and eats other living organisms

Prey: A living organism that is hunted and killed by another living organism

Carnivore: An animal that feeds on other animals

Herbivore: An animal that feeds on plants.

Scavenger: An animal that feed on dead or decaying organic matter

Food Chain: A circle of organisms in a community in which each member of the chain feeds on the member below it.

Evaporate: Process in which water dries and is turned into a gas. Evaporation is easily seen on during hot days. The salt in salt water will not evaporate and forms crystals.

Desiccation: To dry out

Poaching: Illegal removal of any form of animal life